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Ashwell and Alelbourn Rural District Councils.

REPORT

For the Year 1895,

BY

BUSHELL ANNINGSON, M.D., M.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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REPORT.

ASHWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to communicate for the information of the Rural District Council of Ashwell my Annual Report for the year 1895, and according to my usual practice I first pass in review the vital statistics of the year.

The number of deaths which have been registered in the several parishes is 93; to this must be added one which has occurred in the Three Counties Asylum, and seven in the Union Workhouse in the Melbourn District, respectively, making a corrected total of 101, which, on the published Census return of 1891, gives a death-rate from all causes, and at all ages, per 1000 living per annum of 16.5. The death-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given at 18.7 in the Report of the Registrar General.

Deaths in the groups of zymotic diseases in the District have been from Typhoid Fever, 1; Whooping Cough, 1; Diarrhœa, 2; total 4; equal to a death-rate from these diseases of 0.65 per thousand living per annum.

The total number of births registered is 138, equal to a birth-rate of 22.6 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the same period is given at 30.3.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to one thousand registered births is 152.

District	Deaths Registered	Share of Workhouse	Adden- brooke's 11ospital.	County Asylum.	Three Counties Asylum.	Total.
Ashwell R.D.C.	93	7			1	101

Deaths and Death-rate.

Births and Birth-rate. In consequence of the area of the district having by the Local Government Act, 1894, ceased to be co-terminus with a Registration sub-district, I am unable to make the usual comparison of the mortality and disease incidence with those of previous years.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Scarlatina.

Ten cases of Scarlatina which had been notified and one which had been discovered by the Inspector of Nnisances have come under notice in Royston (Herts.); four in one household, during January and February, followed an antecedent case which appeared in the same house at the end of the year 1894; two cases in one household, early in January, in Back Street were like the former probably connected with the epidemic influence which had appeared at the end of the year previous in the several parts of the constituent parishes of the Royston Special Drainage District. Two cases also during January and February occurred at York Terrace; the earlier case is the one discovered whilst in a state of desquamation by the Inspector and was subsequently visited by myself and then isolated; the second ease was duly notified by a medical man. An isolated case occurred in Back Street at the beginning of May, the origin of which could not be accounted for; later in the month two cases occurred in one family in Market Hill; the first case in the household was that of a boy who was in service at the house in Royston (Cambs.) where Scarlet Fever had been continuously present through the whole of the first quarter of the year; another boy in this family was employed at a milk dealers, and his employment there was suspended during the presence of infection in the household.

At Barkway two cases were notified, one in April and one in Angust; in regard to the first the disease would seem to have been contracted at Royston (Cambs.) A case occurred in Angust, and there was little doubt that the disease was contracted at Hunstanton where the family had been spending their summer holiday.

One case occurred at Reed in Angust, and the disease appears to have been contracted at a Coffee Palace at Royston, where the patient had been in service.

Three cases occurred in May, at an outlying part of Therfield, which is separated only by the width of the street from that part of Therfield which is in the Buntingford District where Scarlet Fever had been prevailing.

One case occurred at Therfield in May; the infection appears on enquiry to have been conveyed from the household above mentioned

In September two cases occurred, one only of which was notified, at the Jockey Houses in a distant part of the parish of Therfield; the origin of the infection could not be satisfactorily traeed.

No cases of Diphtheria have appeared in the district during the year.

Diphtheria.

One case of Typhoid Fever was notified at Hinxworth and Typhoid Fever. eould not be connected with any antecedent ease, but the sanitary eonditions of the house were found to be very unsatisfactory.

A fatal ease of the same disease occurred at Ashwell in December, and the inception of the disease could be clearly traced to a household of some relatives in London.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Kelshall the ponds have been cleaned out, and one new Water Supply. tank constructed by the owner, and it has been proposed to supplement the Water Supply by conducting the rain water falling on the roof of the new school premises to the pond which affords a chief supply to a large part of the village; it is desirable that the scheme for a better supply of water, which was devised in August, 1893, for this village, and held in abeyance in consequence of expense, should be re-considered as early as practicable.

At Therfield the village ponds have been eleaned out, and tanks on private property have been cleaned by the several

At Reed a scheme has been prepared by Admiral Douglas to be earried out jointly by the several property owners in conjunction with the District Council.

Nuthampstead was supplied with drinking water during the dry season by water cart.

One well at Ashwell, on account of a sample of the water being found on analysis to be impure, was ordered by the Authority to be closed.

One certificate has been applied for under the Public Health (Water) Aet, 1878, Sec. 6, and granted by the Authority.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS, DRAINAGE, &c.

Unhealthy Dwellings. No unhealthy dwellings have been reported during the year.

Sanitary Improvements. Eight new closets have been made in Royston (Herts.), but the connecting pipe of four of them became subsequently a constant source of trouble; the defect has, however, been now satisfactorily dealt with.

Fourteen foul privy pits, and a foul cesspit at Hinxworth have been closed, and a kitchen sink drain disconnected from sewer and made to empty on to a gulley trap.

The public drain at Kingsland Road, Ashwell, has been altered and trapped, but further drainage improvements are needful here and in Back Street.

Complaints having been made as to the drainage of a house in Priory Lane, Royston, an inspection of the drains was made, and they were discovered to be broken in ten or twolvo places, and the whole system has been renewed in a very satisfactory manner.

A new School has been erected, and occupied at Kelshall in place of the old building which had been found to be in a bad sanitary state.

Several cottages have been re-thatched and repaired at Royston, Nuthampstead, Reed, Therfield and Kelshall.

The Meat Market at Royston has been visited regularly by the Inspector and occasionally by myself.

A special report on the state of Kelshall Churchyard was made by myself on April 16th, 1895, and referred to the Parish Council for consideration.

Overcrowding

Several cases of suspected overcrowding have been reported, but on inspection the complaints were not substantiated.

Appended hereto is the Inspector's tabular statement of Sanitary work, and in the appendix to the official copies, the tables of Population, Births, Deaths and Siekness.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHWELL.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT, 1895

Animals, pigs, removed, cases				6
Certificates under Public Health (V	Vater) A	Act, 1878,	grante	ed 1
Cesspits cleaned out				6
Cottages re-thatched and repaired				28
Drains cleaned out, repaired and du	ang hear	ps remove	d	30
Houses fumigated				13
New closets, privies and closets con				16
,, drains made		• • •		5
,, wells sunk				1
Notices to repair				25
" abate nuisances			• • •	3 3
", overcrowding				2
" provide drinking water				1
Ponds cleaned out				6
Privy cesspits filled up				20
Privies and closets repaired				15
Samples of water taken				2
Sink drains disconnected from unde	erground	l pipe drai	ns	4
Travellers' vans visited				62
Ventilators to existing drains fixed				2
Visits to infectious cases				44
,, slaughter houses, bake	houses,	dairies,	and	
cow sheds				40
Watercourses cleaned out				1
Wells cleaned out and pumps repai	red			7
,, closed by order				1

H. N. WOODWARD,

Inspector of Nuisances.

MELBOURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to communicate for the information of the Rural District Council of Melbourn my Annual Report for the year 1895, and according to my usual practice I first pass in review the vital statistics of the year.

Deaths and Death-rate The number of deaths which have been registered in the several parishes is 195; to this must be added three which have occurred in the Cambridgeshire Asylum, two in Addenbrooke's Hospital, and one in H.M. prison, respectively, and a deduction of seven, belonging to the Ashwell District, which have occurred in the Union Workhouse, making a corrected total of 194, which, on the published Census return of 1891, gives a death-rate from all causes, and at all ages, per 1000 living per annum of 16.9. The death-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given at 18.7 in the Report of the Registrar General.

Deaths in the group of zymotic diseases in the district, have been from Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 1, and Typhoid Fever 2, total, 4; equal to a death-rate from these diseases of 0.34 per thousand living per annum.

Birth rate.

The total number of births registered, is 294, equal to a birth-rate of 25.6 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the same period is given at 30.3.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to one thousand registered births is 115.

District.	Deaths Registered	Share of Workhouse	Adden- brooke's Hospital.	County Asyluin.	H.M. Prisou.	Total.
Melbourn R D.C.	177	11	2	3	1	194

In consequence of the area of the district, having, by the Local Government Act 1894, ceased to be co-terminus with a Registration Sub-District, I am unable to make the usual comparisons of the mortality and disease incidence with those of previous years.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Small Pox.

No cases of Small Pox have engaged attention during the

Four cases of Searlet Fever were notified in two households at Royston, Cambs., three of these in one household were in

Scarlatina.

direct sequence with those mentioned in my report for the year 1894, as having occurred at the end of that year; the origin of the case in the second household assailed could not be traced.

Nine cases occurred in four households at Bassingbourn between the commencement of the first week in April and the middle of June; in pursuing investigation as to the origin of the disease, in the first household assailed, where four cases were notified in two days, a child in a cottage 200 yards distant was discovered already in an advanced state of desquamation, and this child and two other members of the family had been going freely about the village. From the statement of the mother it would appear the child came home on the 19th March, and a few days subsequently developed a rash which was regarded as that of measles; there is little doubt therefore that this case was antecedent to the first case notified, and possibly communicated to them. The mother was warned to isolate the children at home, and the usual notice for exclusion from school sent to the School Managers; this child was subsequently seen by a medical man and duly notified. On the same day two other children in a third family, still nearer to the first household assailed, were found to have come home ill with sore throats and other symptoms of commencing scarlatina; the same procedure was adopted as in the previous cases and medical aid recommended and the cases duly notified. Two cases in the fourth household assailed were notified, the first in May and the second in June; the mother took these two children whilst in a state of desquamation to a village fcast; she was subsequently prosecuted for exposure and a conviction was obtained, and a fine imposed.

Two cases occurred in one family at the beginning of the year at that part of Kneesworth in Royston S.D.D. and probably formed part of the Royston series of cases.

At Steeple Morden three cases were notified, in three households, the first in January, and the other two in October and November respectively; the origin of the first could not be traced; on private intimation, on account of absence from school, the second case was visited by the Mcdical Officer of Health who found a child with marked desquamation probably scarlatinal of the hands; the school authorities were communicated with as usual, and medical aid recommended, which was obtained the day after and the case was duly notified. The third case could not be connected with any other case at Steeple Morden but may have been associated with some cases which were occurring about the same time at the adjacent village of Guilden Morden.

Five cases in two households were notified in the middle of October at Gnilden Morden; the case in the first household was seen by a medical man when already in the desquamative stage, the disease may have been contracted at Hitchin; the cases in the second household may probably have been connected with the first household assailed but the connection could not be clearly traced.

One case occurred at Shepreth Lane, Barrington, in August, and was that of a child who came from Burnley, Lancashire, suffering from illness which had been unrecognized by the persons concerned, and was subsequently found to be scarlatina.

Two cases occurred in one household at Fowlmere in Angust, which may have been connected with the case at Barrington, as the servant of the household came from the infected household at Barrington.

One case occurred at Shepreth in November, which on investigation was found to be connected with cases at Heydon, mentioned below, as the boy who was the subject of the illness and was on a visit to Shepreth, was brother to a girl at Heydon, who was notified within six weeks before as suffering from Scarlet Fever.

Four other cases, in two other households were notified at Heydon and its neighbourhood, and on enquiry at one house where three cases were notified on the same day, it was discovered that their next door neighbour had three children in an advanced stage of desquamation and there was evidence to show that one at least of this last family had paid several visits to the first family assailed and had probably conveyed the infection, while they in their turn, had with little doubt, received the infection from one member of the family who had returned home, while suffering from Scarlet Fever, from Haslingfield in the Chesterton Rural District, where it is known that the disease had been prevailing. The last case at Heydon did not occur till the middle of December and appears to have been introduced by a nurse whose children at the time were suffering from Scarlet Fever at Great Chishall.

At Great Chishall Searlet Fever has been present from March 13th to the end of the year; twelve cases in six households have been notified, but there is reason to believe that there have been other cases, which have not come under medical observation; the method of particular exclusion from school seems to have been defeated in its object by the action of the School Mistress in

sending for children from infected houses notwithstanding requests from the Sanitary Officers that such children should not attend; in consequence of the above circumstances it has been necessary to twice request the closure of the schools. On my visit, near the end of March, to the first cases notified I felt it desirable to examine the children of the family living in the next house and had little doubt that they had been suffering from Scarlet Fever, and in this opinion I was confirmed by the District Medical Officer who saw them subsequently. There is much probability that the disease had been introduced into this family from Royston.

Three cases of Diphtheria in one family occurred in the Rock Road, Royston, in the Bassingbourn parish; the infection could not be satisfactorily traced, but the sanitary conditions were found to be very faulty.

One case of the same disease at Meldreth was that of a child, but there appears to have been some doubt about this case, and the sanitary conditions of the premises were unsatisfactory.

In regard to Typhoid Fever incidence six cases occurred in Typhoid Fever. the district, four at Fowlmere, and one at Bassingbourn and Royston (Cambs.), respectively. The four cases at Fowlmere, between the end of March and the beginning of June, appeared exclusively among young persons attending the schools. inspection of the school offices, and a neighbouring ditch into which they drained, revealed very serious sanitary defects, with regard to which I felt it necessary to make a cogent report, the recommendations of which were duly carried into effect by order of the Authority.

One case at Tan Yard, Bassingbourn, was removed to the Isolation Ward at the Union Workhouse; there was no trace of specific inspection, but the Tan Yard often attracts the attention of the Sanitary Officers.

One case occurred at the beginning of December at Mill Yard, Royston; the sanitary conditions were unsatisfactory, but no specific cause of infection could be traced.

In all the above cases the usual sanitary measures have been adopted with regard to school exclusion, disinfection and cleansing, and advice as to isolation and conduct of cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Bassingbourn the supply from the Artesian Wells at North End, which supply thirty-six cottages with drinking water, failed during the dry season; notice was served upon the owner to provide a supply and this was accomplished by sinking the

Diphtheria.

Water Supply.

existing bore to a further depth of about 25ft.; also near the Church the supply to thirty cottages failed; one of the owners eleaned out his well and repaired the pump and allowed the tenants of the other houses to obtain a supply therefrom.

Steeple Morden. A scareity of drinking water which has existed for some time near the Green and Station Road in this village has been remedied by the sinking of three new wells.

Guilden Morden. A letter was received from the Parish Council of this village complaining that the occupiers of certain property in High Street were without a sufficient supply of drinking water, but on enquiry the Inspector of Nuisances ascertained that there was within a reasonable distance a supply from which the occupiers of these houses were allowed to obtain all they required, wherefore no action was taken in the matter.

At Great and Little Chishall a scheme has been proposed by the Parish Council of Great Chishall by which these two parishes may obtain an improved supply of drinking water, and the scheme has been submitted to the Rural District Conneil, and they have decided to appoint a committee to examine and report at an early meeting.

Shepreth. Complaints of the water supply to this village have on report of the Inspector of Nuisances been referred to the Parish Council.

At Litlington two public pumps have been repaired.

Two wells have been closed by order of the Anthority, and two voluntarily by the owners.

Twenty certificates have been applied for under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, Sec. 6, and granted by the Authority. Five samples of potable water have been taken for analysis, of which three were found to be pure and two unfit for drinking purposes.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS, DRAINAGE, &c.

A representation was made under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, with regard to four cottages, known as Church Row, Steeple Morden, only one of which was occupied at the time of inspection, and this was closed by the owner without further procedure under the Act being required.

One cottage in The Fleet, Bassingbourn, was closed by order (voluntarily) as being unfit for human habitation.

At Foxton the premises occupied by John Fletcher were stated to have been in a very unhealthy condition, and admission to the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances

Unhealthy Dwellings having been refused by the occupier a Magistrate's order was obtained, but admission being still refused the man was prosecuted and fined £1 Os. Od. and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment in default. He was arrested and conveyed to H.M. Prison, at Chesterton, where he died. The premises were found to be in a most filthy condition, and were cleaned out and disinfected.

At Thriplow four new privies have been constructed.

Sanitary Improvements.

At Steeple Morden the defective drainage system at the National Schools has been rectified on notice of the Authority.

At the Crown Inn, Bassingbourn, a new drain of 4in. glazed pipes has been made.

The privies and drainage at the Thriplow and Fowlmere Schools, which had been reported by the Medical Officer of Health to be in a bad sanitary condition have been altered according to his recommendations.

Complaints were received from Mr. Higgins, of Barrington, that his back yard was flooded through lack of drainage; the nuisance was abated by the level of the yard being raised and new drains constructed.

At Steeple Morden, "Odsey Grange," complaints have been made by the occupier as to the faulty drainage and consequential illness in the household; steps are being taken to effect the necessary alterations.

The Churchyard of Guilden Morden was reported by the Inspector of Nuisances as being overcrowded, and the Parish Council have taken the usual steps under the Burials Act to provide a new Burial Ground and have entered into a provisional contract for the acquisition of a site on the Shingay Road. papers relating to this have been sent to me by the Home Office, and a report based upon my inspection, has been forwarded to the Authority during the current year.

The condition of the disinfecting oven at the Union Workhouse appeared to me to be dangerously out of repair, and I ventured to report my views to the Board of Guardians, whereupon I was instructed to communicate with the makers and obtain an estimate of costs for the necessary repairs, which amounted to £18 10s. Od.; the works were proceeded with at

Two cases of overcrowding have been reported at Knees- Overcrowding! worth, one was satisfactorily abated by the removal of two of the inmates, and the other still remains to be dealt with.

A report of an alleged case of overcrowding at Steeple Morden was found on investigation, not to be substantiated, there being ample space for the occupants.

Appended hereto is the Inspector of Nuisances' Statement of Sanitary work, and in the appendix to the official copies, the tables of Population, Births, Deaths and Sickness.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MELBOURN.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT, 1895.

Animals, pigs, removed, c	enses				1
Certificates under P.H. (Water) A	ct. 1878.	ornuted		20
Cesspits cleaned ont			5		5
Cottages closed			•••		1
" re-thatched and	remaired	•••	•••	•••	39
Corpse removed to mortu					1
Drains cleaned, repaired,				• • •	21
				• • •	29
New closets, privies and e	locate con		ith come	• • •	35
, drains made			itii sewei		$\frac{37}{37}$
, houses built		• • •	• • •	• • •	$\frac{37}{28}$
		***	* * *	• • •	3
", wells sink	• • •	•••	* * *	• • •	
Notices to repair		• • •	0.5.0	• • •	22
" ubate unisances	1.	• • •	• • •	• • •	67
,, overcrow	ding			•••	3
Parish pumps repaired		• • •	• • •	• • •	3
Privy cesspits filled up		• • •	***	* * *	19
Privies and closets repair			•••		10
Prosecution under Sec. 10		., 1875 (c	onviction	1)	.1
Removed to infectious wa	26,,	7.7	(ditto)		1
					2
Samples of water taken		• • •			5
Sink drains disconnected f	'rom unde	rground p	sipe draii	ıs	3
Travelling vans visited					7
Un-notified cases of infect	tions dise	ase discov	ered		9
Ventilators to existing dr.	ains fixed				4
Visits to infections enses					126
" lodging honses					- 12
" slaughter hous	es, bake	houses,	dairies	and	
cow she					60
Watercourses cleaned out					1.
Water, notices to provide					22
Wells cleaned out and pu					4
,, closed by order					$\hat{2}$
,, -c.oa 25 0. det		• • •	* * *	• • •	_

H. N. WOODWARD,

Inspector of Nuisances.



